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- INVERTEBRATE PREDATION ON A MARBLED SALAMANDER (*AMBYSTOMA OPACUM*) LARVA IN VIRGINIA -- Predation by aquatic invertebrates and their larvae on amphibian larvae has been reported by many authors (e.g., Hinshaw & Sullivan, 1990; Mitchell, 1990; Rogers, 1996; Owen & Johnson, 1997; McCoy, 2003). Most reports describe spider or insect predation on tadpoles. Several papers describe the effects of the presence of diving beetle larvae on larval amphibian morphology, behavior, and community structure (Bosi, 2001; Laurila et al., 2001; Altwegg, 2003; Johnson et al., 2003). Anecdotal observations can be important because accumulation of such data may lead to a better understanding of the range of predators on different amphibian life history stages and their survival risks in different habitats. Predators and their prey may vary in different parts of the species' range. Invertebrate predation on salamander larvae has been reported, for example, for Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) larvae in Connecticut (Kenny & Burne, 2000) and for a Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) by a rove beetle in Maryland (Jung et al., 2000). In this note, we provide the first published report in Virginia on a Marbled Salamander larva depredated by a predaceous aquatic beetle larva.
- On 15 May 1998, we collected six near-metamorphic *Ambystoma opacum* larvae in a small pond on Fort A.P. Hill, 6.8 km SW Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia (38° 08' 40.76" N, 77° 16' 7.52" W). All were large (50-56 mm total length, 0.87-1.24 g) and all but one had external gills. We initially found one of the gilled larvae (52 mm total length, 1.10 g) upside down in the water. Upon capture, we discovered a larva that was being eaten by a water tiger, the larval form of a predaceous diving beetle (*Cybister* or *Dytiscus*, Dytiscidae). We also caught 30 Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) larvae, tadpoles of the Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) and Southern Leopard Frog (*Rana sphenoccephala utricularia*), and adult Red-spotted Newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) in the same pond. The two ranid tadpoles (72 mm and 89 mm total length) and the adult newts were likely too large for the water tiger, although the others were small enough to be captured by this predator. The *A. maculatum*, *A. opacum*, and *P. crucifer* larvae were at some level of risk of predation by this aquatic predator. We recommend that all observations of invertebrate predation of amphibians and reptiles in Virginia be described in detail, including identification of the predator.

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- ARBOREALITY IN A NORTHERN BROWNSNAKE (*STORERIA DEKAYI DEKAYI*) IN VIRGINIA -- North American snakes are often grouped according to their generalized habitat type, such as aquatic, semiaquatic, terrestrial, and arboreal. Not all snakes adhere to these human constructs, however, as several species that have been considered primarily terrestrial have been found well off the ground in vegetation. Arboreal behavior has been documented in Black Racers (*Coluber constrictor*), Timber Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*), Copperheads (*Agkistrodon contortrix*), western Gartersnakes (*Thamnophis* spp.), and Crowned Snakes (*Tantilla* spp.) in the modern literature (Liner & Chaney, 1990; Saenz et al., 1996; Mitchell et al., 2000; Beaupre & Roberts, 2001; Fogell et al., 2002; Leenders, 2004; Sajdak & Bartz, 2004). Observations of such behavior provide insights into the life histories and ecology of these snakes that occasionally cause us to rewrite our books.
- Arboreality in the Northern Brownsnake (*S. dekayi*) has been documented three times; all in North Carolina. One was observed apparently basking about 1.4 m above ground in a hedge and another was coiled 61 cm above ground in a sapling (Palmer & Braswell, 1995). Brown (1992) noted that gravid females are sometimes found in branches and vines overhanging streams. Hunley (2003) found one of these snakes basking on a mound of soil on 21 March in Botetourt County, Virginia.
- On 7 May 2005, one of us (PP) observed a female *S. dekayi* (246 mm TL) lying on a Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) vine about 44 cm above ground in full sun, 3.1 km SW of the Danville Regional Airport in the City of Danville, Virginia (36° 33' 35.4" N, 79° 21' 22.6" W, elevation 111 m). This vine was located beside a mountain bike trail cut through a mature oak-hickory forest. The trail allowed sufficient light through the canopy to sustain an herbaceous layer composed